

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Maurice Bowman, 32, of Chicago, and Albert Cole, 36, of Madison, were sentenced yesterday afternoon by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb. Bowman pleaded guilty to possession of crack cocaine on October 29, 2008. Cole pleaded guilty to maintaining a drug house for the manufacture of crack cocaine on October 31, 2008.

Judge Crabb sentenced Bowman to 30 years in prison after finding him responsible for distributing more than 30 kilograms of crack cocaine in Madison between 1994 and 2007. Judge Crabb sentenced Cole to 20 years in prison, the statutory maximum, after finding that he assisted Bowman by converting more than two kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride (powder cocaine) into crack cocaine.

United States Attorney Peterson stated that the charges followed an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force.

United States Attorney Peterson stated, "Bowman and Cole were responsible for distributing a staggering quantity of crack cocaine in Madison. The U.S. Attorney's

Office will continue to target repeat drug offenders and hold them accountable. It is our goal to change the equation--to make dealers understand that if they sell drugs in Wisconsin, they will spend the majority of their adult lives in federal prison. These sentences of 30 and 20 years should send a clear message to those who consider selling drugs in the Western District of Wisconsin: it is just not worth it."

The prosecution of the cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea.

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